

## news

# Witch Hunt Extends to Court

by RON DAYMAN The Ottawa witch hunt appears to be continuing. Police surveillance and harassment of gays in local parks is on the increase. In one recent incident at Nepean Point, Ottawa's most popular 'gay' park, a member of Gays of Ottawa happened upon a scene where two officers were in the process of arresting four men on charges of gross indecency. One of the men appeared to be only an innocent bystander.

The GO member, Yvon Thivierge, protested this injustice, and was punched in the face and charged with obstructing a police officer. He in turn is laying charges of assault.

The two morality squad officers, Detectives Gervais and Methot, are the same policemen who have been involved in the recent arrest of 18 Ottawa area men on charges of gross indecency and buggery in connection with an alleged prostitution service involving minors. GO has subsequently been leafletting the park warning that the area is dangerous. A secret departmental investigation of the two officers is supposedly being carried out.

Meanwhile the preliminary hearings against several of the 16 alleged customers have begun and will not be completed before the fall. A publication ban has been placed on the proceedings.

Thus far one person has pleaded guilty to gross indecency and has been given an eight month suspended sentence. One man, Warren Zufelt, committed suicide after his name, address and place of employment had been published in the press. Three men have been committed to stand trial in County Court in the fall, and nine cases have yet to go through the preliminary stages.

Two cases were dismissed when the witnesses could not identify the men charged. In one case the media failed to report the dismissal, thus leaving the individual's name uncleared in the eyes of the public.

## Ottawa

The main witnesses in the cases are the two alleged operators of the service and a sixteen year old boy, Richard Cadieux, who will appear as the star witness in 12 of the cases. Cadieux has not been charged since he is cooperating with the police.

In at least two other cases the Crown prosecutor dropped standing charges and laid new ones when it became obvious that he had insufficient evidence for a conviction. His action followed an incredible court incident where morality officers escorted two youths through the courtroom to ensure that they made an accurate identification of a defendant.

The new charges allege that the defendant engaged in a sexual act with one of the two youths. Judge Jean-Pierre Beaulne commented: "I hope the morality department knows how many

charges they wish to lay." The man's lawyer, Pat McCann, is considering laying a suit of malicious prosecution against the police.

Gays of Ottawa, along with The Body Politic and other groups, have demanded a full inquiry into police practices in the arrests. The Attorney-General, John Clement, has replied with a refusal. In identical letters sent to this paper, GO and MLA Michael Cassidy, who had also called for an investigation, Clement stated: "I suppose that the very detestable and depraved nature of the alleged operation to a large extent generated the attendant publicity. While the police may have released information to the news media, it was the media's decision and responsibility as to what would be published. It has been standard practice for the police to release information concerning charges laid by them and to me it seems both illogical and incomprehensible to suggest that individuals charged with corrupting young boys should enjoy any special immunity from publication."

He continued, "So far as the conduct of the police is concerned, it is curious that they should be criticized for enforcing a law which prohibits the corruption of children. The investigation in question has been a matter of great concern and alarm not only to the police but also to the community. The corruption of children simply cannot be tolerated as any normal and sane individual must agree. The damage done to the young boys involved in this vicious operation well may be incalculable. Several of the youngsters have found it necessary to seek psychiatric help as a result of their involvement in the matter. The vigilant efforts of the police deserve commendation rather than censure. So far as I am concerned there is no need for an inquiry and there will be no inquiry."

In a press release GO stated that this letter represented an "out and out disregard for either the facts of the case or for the lives of the individuals involved." The release also condemned the double standard of police officers in that clients in heterosexual prostitution cases are seldom charged even when young girls are involved. A recent Calgary case demonstrated this when young women were charged, but their customers were not.

GO has scheduled a meeting with Ottawa mayor Lorry Greenberg, head of the Ottawa police commission, to further press for an investigation. GO will also appear before the Ontario Press Council in Toronto in August to press their complaint against the Ottawa Citizen for sensationalistic coverage of the affair.

A special fund has been established to help pay legal fees for those defendants who are having financial troubles and for future cases in which gay people are discriminated against by the enforcement of unfair laws. Contributions can be made to the 'Warren Zufelt Memorial Defence Fund', c/o Gays of Ottawa, Box 2919, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario.

# GO Presses for Civic Rights

Gays of Ottawa is in the midst of a campaign to obtain an Ottawa City Council Resolution similar to the one passed by Toronto City Council in October 1973, which bars discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the hiring and firing of municipal employees.

GO was in the process of contacting city aldermen to circulate a brief to this end when a letter of support sent to the Ottawa Board of Control by the Quakers resulted in a premature discussion of the question by the Board.

The Board referred the question to Bob Wilson, Director of Personnel and he reported that he did not feel that homosexuals should be hired in areas dealing with children.

Wilson subsequently did a CBC Radio interview where he expressed the same view. The Civil Liberties Association of Ottawa sent a letter protesting his attitudes and pointing out that there is no more connection between child-molesting and homosexuality than between child-molesting and heterosexuality.

The Board of Control decided in a special in-camera meeting called to avoid publicity on the question, that Wilson's report was not acceptable and that homosexuals should not be discriminated against. The media discovered the secret decision and reported on it. However, the Board's legal department advised them that Ottawa already had a general non-

discriminatory hiring policy and that a special city council resolution was therefore unnecessary.

GO has discovered that since the Board's non-discrimination policy is a direct quotation from the Ontario Human Rights Code it does not include sexual orientation. GO is continuing to publicly lobby for a city council resolution and a meeting has been scheduled with the Mayor, Lorry Greenberg, to discuss it.

## 'MAY DAY' MARCH DRAWS GAY SOLIDARITY

MONTREAL-A gay contingent participated in the May Day March here on May 1st. The March, which was estimated to include approximately 12,000 participants, is an annual event in most major Quebec centres. Its purpose is to show worker's solidarity.

Approximately 50 gay men and women participated in the event carrying their own banner calling for gays to unite against 'les boss' and their morality. They carried signs and chanted slogans which denounced police oppression and celebrated the link between the struggle of women, workers and gays. They also called for the liberation of gays in Chile. Participation in the march was motivated by the recent police campaign against gays in Montreal.

The gay contingent received brief mention in both the anglophone and francophone press. The reaction of the other marchers was generally supportive. This was in direct contrast to an earlier gay intervention. The Front de liberation homosexuel (FLH), a now defunct Montreal gay group, attended the July 1st March in 1971. At that time the gay marchers were subjected to open hostility and were condemned by Rene Levesque, leader of the Parti Quebecois.

## TWO MEDIA PROJECTS WIN GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Two gay media projects have been awarded Opportunities for Youth grants this summer. Both will be producing educational material about gay lifestyles.

In Saskatoon, the project 'Community Understanding' has been funded to employ four people to produce primarily audio material. Despite total support for the project at all levels of the OFY command, the project was almost refused because of opposition from a highly placed official in the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration.

'About Gay People', a Toronto based group of four is going to make a one hour videotape on gay experiences in Eastern Canadian cities. The tape will be about issues affecting men and women as they express themselves through their gayness.

## CANADIAN GAY ACADEMICS PLANNING NATIONAL BODY

Members of the academic community in Toronto met recently to form an organizing committee for a chapter of the Gay Academic Union in Canada. The initial goals, to be met by the fall, are 1) to recruit a letterhead group of six or seven academics representative of the various campuses and levels of education in Toronto, 2) to promote further Gay Studies programs in educational institutions and 3) to promote greater collections of gay materials in educational libraries.

It is hoped that firm establishment of a Toronto base will lead to development of chapters elsewhere in Canada. The objective is not a branch-plant affiliate of the GAU in the United States, but an independent group with fraternal ties.

Contact person for the Toronto organizing committee is Professor John Alan Lee, Dept. of Sociology, University of Toronto.

## ORGANIZATION FORMS FOR OLDER LESBIANS

MONTREAL-A number of gay women have organized to meet the needs of older lesbians. Because older gay women often encounter ageist treatment from younger lesbians who make up the predominant membership of existing lesbian associations, Slightly Older Lesbians was started.

It holds social activities every Friday night at 8 pm at 3595 St Urbain.

**Gay Times**

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